

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Dinh for the courteous and professional interview on October 11, 2005. In addition to Examiner Dinh, Examiner Ben Loha, inventor Kannan Raj and the undersigned attorney were present.

The discussion started with a technical presentation by Dr. Raj. This was followed by a discussion of claim 41, the allowed claims, and related US Patent 6,850,658. Related US Patent 6,850,658 claims an encapsulant surrounding at least a portion of an optical transmission medium and a microelectronic device while the instant application claims an encapsulant surrounding at least a portion of an optical transmission medium and an electrical connector.

Applicants' attorney verbally presented the reasons for the patentability of claim 41 that were previously presented in writing. It was pointed out that the term "encapsulant" or "encapsulating" distinguishes the inventive structure and process claimed in claim 41 from the cited prior art. In further support of this position, applicants offer the enclosed Declaration under the relevant CFR 1.132.

In order to more succinctly set forth this important distinction, applicants have amended claim 1, as follows:

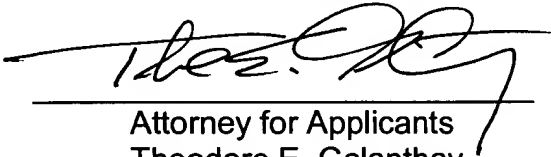
41. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an optical coupler, the method comprising the steps of:

- creating electrical connectors;
- attaching a waveguide to the electrical connectors;
- encapsulating at least a portion of the electrical connectors and at least a portion of the waveguide with the same contiguous encapsulant; and
- polishing an end of the waveguide.

Clearly, the frame 14 in Henson et al US 5,325,455 patent does not enclose at least a portion of the electrical connectors and at least a portion of the waveguide with the same contiguous encapsulant. Rather, two parts of a frame are joined together to form the enclosure.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claim 41 is in condition for allowance. All other claims were previously allowed. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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